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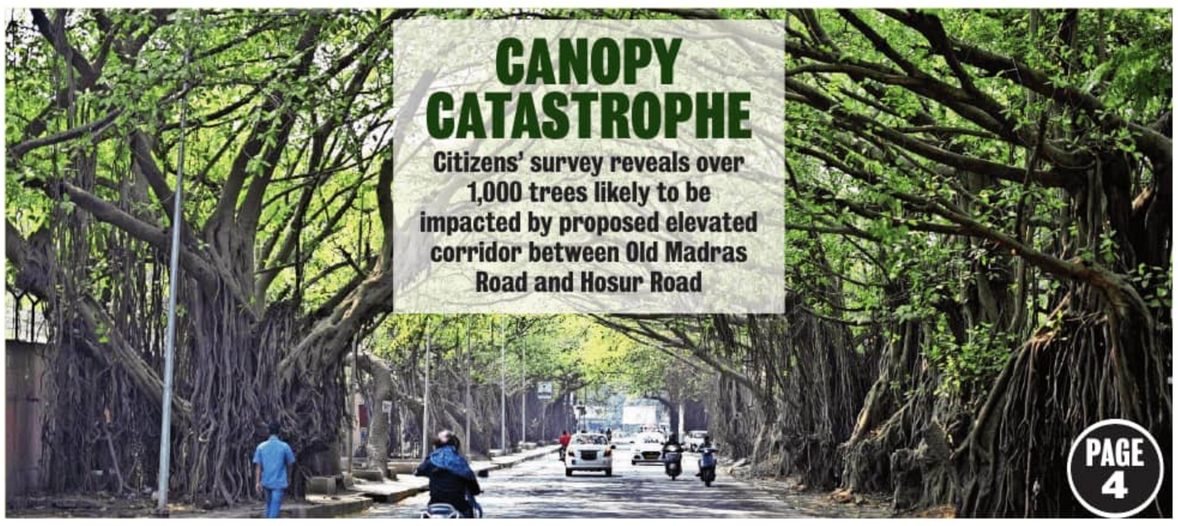
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 22 | Humidity 78% Cloudy and breezy Sensex 76,922 | Nifty 24,005 | Gold 1,43,362 | Silver 2,26,347 | Dollar 95.11 | Euro 108.40 | GBP 125.97


CANOPY CATASTROPHE
Citizens' survey reveals over 1,000 trees likely to be impacted by proposed elevated corridor between Old Madras Road and Hosur Road
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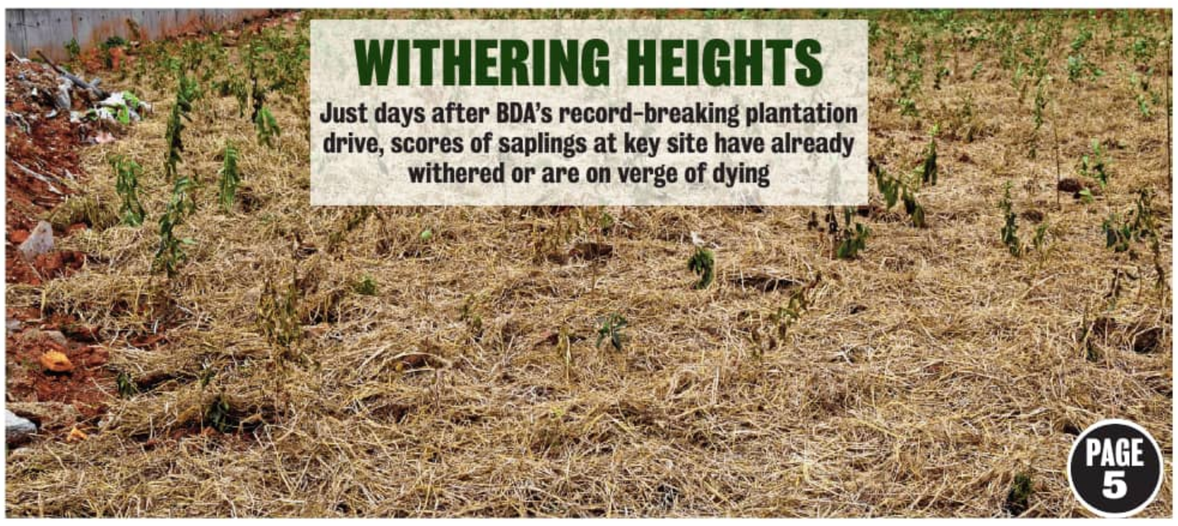
WITHERING HEIGHTS
Just days after BDA's record-breaking plantation drive, scores of saplings at key site have already withered or are on verge of dying
PAGE 5

From daylight murders over revenge to loved ones plotting death — Bengaluru has seen murders most foul as it rakes up 10-15 cases each month. We try to decipher what goes on behind the scenes of these grim tidings

WHEN YOU COME UNDONE

Deadly cocktail of rapid urbanisation, poverty, migration, social factors, substance abuse

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Probe into the murder of a software engineer, his wife, and their college-going daughter, who were found stabbed to death inside their apartment in Seegehalli, led police to an extremely disturbing finding. Following a manhunt, the couple's elder daughter and her live-in partner were arrested for the murders.

This being a saga of family relations going sour, was particularly shocking. But, from rowdy sheeters being hacked to death on busy roads to gruesome domestic killings, Bengaluru has witnessed a string of brutal murders over the past six months, with at least nine reported in June alone. The city continues to record an average of 10 to 15 murders every month.

According to State Police data, Bengaluru recorded nearly 73 murder cases in the first five months of 2026. Of these, 13 cases were reported in January, 15 in February, 17 in March, 15 in April, and 13 in May. Police say an increasing number of cases are linked to emotional instability, relationship breakdowns,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Everyone has a signature behaviour under extreme stress. When unabated stress goes on increasing and coping mechanisms fail, a predictable sequence of psychological decline can escalate into a security threat. Further multiple stressors raise the likelihood of violence
—Dr. Suresh Bada Math, NIMHANS

Passport applicants, please stand up

Elderly or young, unwell or healthy, all B'lureans have to stand outside Lalbagh Road Passport Seva Kendra as very little seating space is available in waiting area

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Applicants visiting the Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) on Lalbagh Road are raising concerns over what they describe as inadequate seating arrangements for family members and companions accompanying passport applicants, forcing many to stand for long periods outside the facility.

Several visitors, who recently attended appointments at the centre, said the shortage of seating has become a recurring inconvenience, particularly for senior citizens, parents accompanying young children, and those travelling from distant parts of the city. While passport applicants are allowed inside the facility for processing, attendants and relatives accompanying them are often required to wait outside. According to visitors, the available seating in the waiting area is limited and insufficient to accommodate the large number of people arriving at the centre each day.

"My daughter had an appointment at 11 am, and I accompanied her because she was carrying several documents," said S Ramesh, a resident of Jayanagar. "The process

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Maths made fun

Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of Move Through Math, a handbook for parents and educators of children aged 5–10, introducing embodied, culturally grounded approaches to learning mathematics through movement, rhythm and spatial awareness. Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 4, 6 pm

02 Ready for a laugh?

Madari Productions presents Dirty Biryani, a drama comedy musical that celebrates womanhood. The story follows three eccentric women who meet serendipitously, ensuing chaos and craziness as events take surprising turns. Where: Jagriti Theatre; When: July 11, 3.30 pm, 7.30 pm

03 Treasure trove

Flo Sante 2026 offers a one-day curated shopping experience bringing together a wide range of women-led brands across fashion, jewellery, home décor, lifestyle, food and more. Where: Princess Shrine; When: July 3, 10 am

04 Artistic moments

A hands-on Natural Dyeing Workshop introduces beginners to sustainable textile dyeing, exploring fabric preparation, mordanting and colour development through step by step demonstrations. Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 4, 12 pm

05 Diversity in dance

The Academy of Music (Regd), Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, is set to present 'Nrutya Rangoli 2026', a prestigious three-day national dance extravaganza celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian classical dance traditions. Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: July 10 to 12

Schools held liable for safety of students beyond campus limits

HC says schools' responsibility does not end within campus premises, while also emphasising that ensuring safety of children during bus commutes is statutory duty

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IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has held that a school's responsibility towards its students does not end when they leave the campus, observing that the duty of care continues during their journey in the school bus until they are safely handed over to their parents. In a recent order, Justice M Nagaprasanna said a school bus must be treated as an extension of the school and emphasised that institutions are obligated to ensure proper supervision of students during transit. The court noted that schools are required to deploy attendants or teachers on school buses until every child is safely dropped home, in accordance with the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification, Regulation and Prescription of Curricula, etc) (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

School bus must be treated as extension of school; institutions are obligated to ensure proper supervision of students during transit, says court

"The schools cannot violate the said mandate of the statute. A child which travels in a school bus which is an extension of the school itself, cannot be left high and dry till the child from the school reaches the house even if it is the last stop. The schools cannot show a hands off to the responsibility of compliance with the mandate of the statute," the court observed.

The remarks came while the court dismissed a petition filed by the management of Divyajyothi School in Mandya seeking to quash an FIR registered after a Class IV student allegedly lost vision in one eye following an incident inside a school bus.

Rejecting the school's plea, the court underscored that ensuring the safety of children travelling in school buses is a statutory duty and not merely an administrative convenience. Finding that the allegations prima facie disclose an offence under Section 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with rash or negligent acts endangering human life or personal safety resulting in hurt, the court refused to interfere at the preliminary stage and directed that the investigation should continue.

Judge recuses from gig workers' case

Justice Suraj Govindaraj of the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday recused himself from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, after noting that the cases had been filed through law firm IndusLaw.

When the matters were called, the judge remarked, "IndusLaw? Not before us," indicating that he would not hear the petitions. Senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that none of the parties had any objection to Justice Govindaraj hearing the matter. Responding, Justice Govindaraj observed, "But all of you should have known," before recusing from the proceedings. The petitions will now be placed before another bench of the High Court.

Darshan's trial fairness claim under consideration

The Karnataka High Court has questioned actor Darshan Srinivas' contention that the release of the Kannada film BOSS could prejudice the fairness of the pending criminal trial against him in the Renukaswamy murder case. Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur was hearing an appeal filed by Darshan Srinivas and his wife, Vijayalakshmi Darshan, seeking restoration of an interim injunction restraining the film's release in Darshan Srinivas v Siri Productions. The appellants contend that BOSS closely resembles the facts surrounding the Renukaswamy murder case, in which Darshan is an accused, and that its release could interfere with his constitutional right to a fair trial.

Justice Yerur, however, questioned whether the argument suggested that judges could be influenced by a film. "'Cool-minded verdict from the court.' You mean to say the judges are hot-headed? Get influenced by the movie? I don't know how many of them watch it also," the judge remarked. Clarifying his submission, the appellants' counsel said the principal concern was not the judges but the possibility of witnesses being influenced by the film. The High Court agreed to continue hearing the matter and adjourned the case to July 3.

Ambulance service for metro commuters under consideration

The Health Department is exploring the launch of a dedicated ambulance service for Namma Metro to provide emergency medical care to passengers who fall ill during their commute. Health and Family Welfare Minister UT Khader said he will hold discussions with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials to work out the proposal. The plan envisages trained medical personnel and emergency care facilities at Metro stations, with patients to be stabilised before being shifted by ambulance to the nearest hospital.

Khader also said the state plans to revive bike ambulances and introduce boat ambulances for fishermen. He sought the immediate release of Rs 400 crore due to Karnataka under the National Health Mission, urged the Centre to increase the monthly honorarium for ASHA workers from Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 and pressed for faster development of a vaccine for Kyasanur Forest Disease (monkey fever). — BMB

Gold prices slump by ₹18,000 in a month

Gold buyers have got a breather as the price of 24-carat gold has recorded its steepest monthly fall in nearly 18 years. The price of 10 grams of gold has dropped by around Rs 18,000 during June, falling from about Rs 1.60 lakh at the start of the month to nearly Rs 1.42 lakh by June 30. In Bengaluru, 10 grams of 24-carat gold was priced at around Rs 1,42,040 on Tuesday. Market experts attribute the sharp correction to easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, a stronger US dollar, expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate hike, falling crude oil prices and investors shifting from safe-haven assets like gold to riskier investments. On Tuesday, gold prices edged up in Bengaluru even as silver prices slipped, the reverse of the trend seen in New Delhi. Analysts, however, expect the decline to be temporary, saying demand is likely to pick up with the festive season beginning in August. — BMB

Commuters fume over hike in NICE Road toll charges

Driving on Bengaluru's NICE Road has become more expensive with revised toll charges coming into effect from Wednesday, drawing criticism from daily commuters who say the already costly expressway has become an even bigger burden on their pockets.

Motorists using the 45-km access-controlled corridor linking Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road are now paying between Rs 3 and Rs 8 more for cars, depending on the stretch travelled. For instance, the toll between Hosur Road and Bannerghatta Road has increased from Rs 65 to Rs 72, while the Mysuru Road-Magadi Road section now costs Rs 77 instead of Rs 70.

Many commuters expressed disappointment over the latest revision, saying frequent toll hikes add significantly to their monthly travel expenses. The revised tariff applies across vehicle categories. Two-wheelers are also paying more on select stretches, with the Hosur Road-Bannerghatta Road toll rising from Rs 30 to Rs 33, Bannerghatta Road-Kanakapura Road from Rs 15 to Rs 17 and Mysuru Road-Magadi Road from Rs 30 to Rs 33. Bus operators and truck owners have also been hit by the increase, with toll charges for larger vehicles now revised upward across several sections.

The toll revision has also been implemented on the Bengaluru Elevated Tollway between Silk Board and Electronic City. While single-trip charges for cars, two-wheelers and light commercial vehicles remain unchanged, multiple-journey passes now cost Rs 5 to Rs 10 more.

For cars, the multiple-trip pass has increased from Rs 95 to Rs 100, while for light commercial vehicles and mini buses it has gone up from Rs 130 to Rs 135. Bus and truck users are now paying Rs 185 for a single journey, up from Rs 175, while the multiple-journey fee has been raised from Rs 265 to Rs 275. Revised user charges have also come into effect at the Attibele toll plaza. — BMB

Truck rams into parked auto

A serious road accident involving a lorry and an auto rickshaw occurred near the Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Stand in West Bengaluru at around 4.30 am on Wednesday, triggering panic among commuters and passersby. No injuries were reported.

According to police officials, a speeding lorry rammed into an auto rickshaw that had been parked while its driver had stepped away for tea, narrowly escaping the crash. The impact was so severe that the auto was completely crushed and mangled beyond recognition, highlighting the intensity of the collision. Following the impact, the lorry veered out of control and rammed into the road divider, sustaining significant damage to its front portion. The exact cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Man killed by speeding truck

A 28-year-old nurse was killed in a tragic road accident involving a container truck and a two-wheeler at Kalyan Nagar Junction under the limits of Banaswadi Traffic Police Station on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Kelvin (28), a resident of Ramamurthy Nagar and a native of Tamil Nadu. He was working as a nurse at a private hospital in Bengaluru. According to police, Kelvin was returning home on his two-wheeler after completing his shift on Tuesday night when the accident occurred near Kalyan Nagar Junction. A container vehicle passing through the junction allegedly rammed into his bike. The rear wheels of the container truck ran over him, causing severe injuries. He died on the spot. Police have arrested the driver. A case has been registered at Banaswadi Traffic Police Station and investigation is underway. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Five booked for abuse of toddlers

Five women have been booked for allegedly abusing toddlers at a daycare centre located within the campus of Capgemini in Brookefield. The incident came to light after disturbing videos, reportedly received via WhatsApp, showed toddlers aged between 2 and 3 years crying while being subjected to abusive treatment. A case was registered at the HAL Police Station on June 29 following a complaint filed by Tilakesh Kumar, legal-cum-probation officer of the District Child Protection Unit. The accused caregivers Manjula, Vijayalakshmi, Bhavani, Sindhu and Bindu have been charged with criminal intimidation and cruelty. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Man booked for exploiting partner

A 35-year-old woman has filed a complaint against a man, accusing him of sexual exploitation, cheating, assault, criminal intimidation and financial fraud under the false promise of marriage.

Based on her complaint, MICO Layout police have registered an FIR against the accused, identified as Chethan Kumar, and arrested him on charges of cheating under the pretext of marriage, sexual exploitation, forcing an abortion, secretly recording private moments and criminal intimidation by threatening to leak personal photographs. The accused had reportedly promised to marry the victim but later refused. Further investigation is ongoing. **–BMB**

Power connectivity achieved in most schools across K'taka

As per report, over past decade, Karnataka improves electricity coverage in schools to 98.3 per cent, placing it among states that have nearly achieved universal coverage

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Karnataka has emerged as one of the better-performing states in school infrastructure, with 98.3 per cent of schools having access to electricity, according to the latest NITI Aayog report titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement'. Experts say the state should now focus on sustainable solutions to electrify the remaining schools and ensure reliable power for digital learning.

The report notes that electricity coverage in schools across India has improved significantly over the past decade, rising from 55.96 per cent in 2014-15 to 91.9 per cent in 2024-25. Electricity is considered a critical component of school infrastructure as it supports classroom lighting, ventilation, digital learning tools and uninterrupted teaching during extreme weather conditions.

Karnataka had already achieved a high level of electrification a decade ago, with 96.5 per cent of schools connected to electricity in 2014-15. Over the last ten years, the state improved further to 98.3 per cent, placing it among states that have nearly achieved universal coverage.

File photo of government school in Bengaluru

Nationally, several states and Union Territories have now achieved complete electrification of schools.

According to NITI Aayog, the nationwide improvement reflects sustained government investment in school infrastructure and convergence with rural electrification programmes. However, the report cautions that nearly 7 per cent of schools across India still remain without electricity, underscoring the need to bridge last-mile gaps and ensure every school is equipped to support digital and technology-enabled learning.

Commenting on how the remaining gap can be addressed, SK Mahadev, Electrical Engineer and CSR Coordinator at the Karnataka Residential Educational Institution Society (KREIS), said a sustainable solution would be to implement the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in government schools through the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model. "A private developer installs, owns, operates and maintains the rooftop solar power system, while the school pays only for the electricity consumed at a pre-agreed tariff. This eliminates the need for significant upfront government investment and ensures professional maintenance throughout the project period," he said.

According to Mahadev, the model can provide reliable electricity, reduce electricity expenditure and help schools redirect savings towards upgrading digital infrastructure and internet connectivity.

Dr HS Nagaraja, Founder and Chief Mentor of the Prayoga Institute of Education Research, said the NEP places strong emphasis on experiential learning. "In this context, apart from many other needs for electrification, science learning through laboratories can happen much better. This move should strengthen school infrastructure and give even the remotest village schools access to impactful science learning," he said.

CRIME FILES

Trio's arrest leads to recovery of 11 vehicles

Govindpura police have arrested three individuals accused of stealing eight two-wheelers and three auto rickshaws, collectively valued at approximately Rs 6.85 lakh. According to official records, two separate cases of vehicle theft had been lodged at the Govindpura Police Station. Investigators apprehended the accused near a hotel in Nagawara. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they had parked the stolen vehicles near a function hall at Umar Nagar, whereas few of the other vehicles were kept at another open space near a college in Vyalikaval Layout. Based on the information given by the accused, the stolen vehicles were recovered between June 15 and June 24.

Police have recorded 11 vehicle theft cases against the accused in various police stations. The three accused have been remanded to judicial custody. **–BMB**

Man held for theft of two-wheelers

Police have arrested one accused in connection with a recent vehicle theft case.

On June 5, a resident of Modi Road, near Modi Masjid, discovered that his parked two-wheeler was missing from outside his house. He lodged a formal complaint with the Devarajeevanahalli Police Station on June 8, reporting the theft.

Police nabbed a suspect near his residence in Eidgah Mohalla. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and revealed that the stolen vehicle had been hidden near Patelappa Ground. Police teams successfully recovered all seven stolen vehicles. Subsequently, the accused was remanded to judicial custody. **–BMB**

Signboard in Hindi sparks language row

In an act of protest on Tuesday, members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) removed a Hindi signboard installed at the BEL Circle, alleging that it was placed without authorisation and amounted to an imposition of Hindi in Karnataka.

The activists claimed the signboard had been put up on campus without following proper procedures, and therefore had to be dismantled. During the protest, they took matters into their own hands and removed the signage.

Speaking to the press, the president of KRV stated that the organisation would not tolerate any form of Hindi imposition in the state. **–BMB**

11 two-wheelers seized

In a special operation conducted by 13 police stations under the North Division of Bengaluru City Police, 11 stolen two-wheelers have been seized. According to police reports, senior officers and personnel carried out an intensive night patrol on June 30, setting up multiple checkpoints across the city.

During the drive, several two-wheeler riders were caught engaging in stunt riding, triple riding and other violations that posed risks to public safety. Authorities immediately seized the vehicles involved, ensuring that offenders were dealt with under the law.

Police confirmed that further legal action will be initiated against the owners of the seized vehicles, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining order. **–BMB**

1,000 trees threatened by elevated corridor project

Assessment warns proposed corridor threatens green cover, neighbourhood landmarks and businesses, prompting residents to demand comprehensive technical review before implementation

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An independent survey by Indiranagar residents claims more than 1,000 trees could be affected by the proposed elevated corridor between Old Madras Road and Hosur Road, far exceeding the 235 trees identified in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Residents estimate that 1,010 trees are at risk. Their assessment also found that several age-old open spaces, neighbourhood landmarks and community assets would be impacted. The findings were presented at a recent meeting with city-based environmentalists and mobility experts. Residents argued that the project has not been planned as part of Bengaluru's long-term mobility vision. They also alleged that the DPR for the Rs 1,300-crore project relies primarily on a 14-hour traffic volume survey conducted on the Intermediate Ring Road at Domlur.

"The report does not adequately analyse where the traffic originates or its destinations, while if a substantial share of vehicles passing through Indiranagar is through traffic. Moreover, our understanding is that BMLTA was not consulted in preparing the proposal and observations submitted by DULT were not incorporated as well," said a resident.

Locals said Indiranagar, home to nearly 1.5 lakh residents and over 1,000 businesses, would face significant economic and social consequences if the project proceeds in its current form. The assessment also questioned the project's financial assumptions. The DPR estimates an Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of 16.8%, based on vehicles maintaining an average speed of 60 kmph over the next 25 years.

Locals urge transparent stakeholder consultations before irreversible changes to reshape established neighbourhoods

"These assumptions do not reflect Bengaluru's traffic realities. Moreover, the reported Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.99 excludes delays and costs imposed on local traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and businesses operating along the corridor. We are not opposed to infrastructure development or improved mobility. However, projects of this scale must be supported by rigorous technical analysis, transparent stakeholder consultation and a credible assessment of alternatives before irreversible changes are made to established neighbourhoods," members of the residents' group said.

The group has called for an independent traffic audit, comprehensive stakeholder consultations before work orders are issued, and an independent stress test of the project's economic viability using realistic traffic assumptions. Residents of JP Nagar have urged authorities to modify the proposed Double Decker Flyover, arguing that its current alignment could create a major traffic bottleneck instead of delivering a signal-free corridor.

The flyover is planned to provide uninterrupted connectivity from Hebbal to JP Nagar over nearly 29 kilometres. However, residents pointed out that it would terminate at the Vega City T-Junction, where traffic would merge into a signalised intersection.

"A high-capacity express corridor should connect seamlessly to another major arterial road or grade-separated facility rather than terminate at a traffic signal. The current design defeats the objective of providing uninterrupted traffic flow," said CK Nithyanand, a resident.

> **"We have urged BMRCL and GBA to incorporate citizen feedback before finalising the project, stating that design changes at the planning stage would help prevent future congestion and avoid costly corrective measures after construction**
> – CK Nithyanand, Resident, JP Nagar

Residents proposed ending the flyover immediately after the Kanakapura Road junction, about two kilometres before the Vega City T-Junction, allowing traffic to disperse across multiple connecting roads. "We have urged BMRCL and GBA to incorporate citizen feedback before finalising the project, stating that design changes at the planning stage would help prevent future congestion and avoid costly corrective measures after construction," added Nithyanand.

A few more chairs or benches is all that is needed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

took nearly two hours, but there were very few spots available outside. Most people, including elderly individuals, were standing the entire time," he said. On a recent weekday, dozens of people could be seen waiting around the premises, with some seeking shade under nearby trees while others stood along pathways and boundary walls. Visitors said the situation becomes more difficult during afternoons when temperatures rise. Parents accompanying minors for passport applications also voiced frustration over the lack of basic waiting facilities.

"I came here with my seven-year-old son for his passport renewal," said a resident of Banashankari. "There was nowhere for us to sit while waiting for our turn to enter. Children get restless, and elderly family members cannot remain standing for such long durations," she said. Senior citizens appeared to be among the worst affected. Some attendants said they had witnessed elderly visitors struggling to find a place to rest while waiting for applicants to complete verification and documentation procedures.

"A simple arrangement of additional benches or chairs would make a huge difference. This is a public-facing service and should be more comfortable for citizens," said Mohan Kumar, who had accompanied his wife to the centre. Visitors acknowledged that passport processing inside the centre is generally efficient but argued that facilities outside the building have not kept pace with the growing number of applicants. The Lalbagh Road Passport Seva Kendra is one of Bengaluru's busiest passport processing centres, catering to applicants from across the city and surrounding areas. With passport demand continuing to remain high, attendants said infrastructure around the waiting area requires improvement.

Some applicants suggested the installation of covered waiting zones with adequate seating, drinking water facilities, and designated spaces for senior citizens and families with children.

"People are already dealing with documentation and appointment schedules," said Anita George, who accompanied her father to the centre. "The least that can be provided is a comfortable place to sit while waiting. It would greatly improve the overall experience for everyone visiting the passport office," she added.

Murder accused shot at after attacking cops

A rowdy-sheeter accused in the recent murder of a man in JP Nagar was shot in the leg by police after he allegedly attacked officers during a spot mahazar near Thalaghattapura limits, Hemmigepura road near Nice road on Wednesday. According to South Division DCP K Vamshikrishna, on June 27, four men allegedly attacked a man identified as Raju, resulting in his death. Following the incident, police constituted eight special teams to track down the accused, and all four were arrested within two days. As part of the investigation, police later escorted the accused to the crime scene near NICE Road for a spot mahazar. After the procedure was completed, one of the accused allegedly turned aggressive and began pelting the police personnel with stones. A woman police officer was also reportedly attacked during the incident. According to police, PSI Samanvaya initially fired a warning shot into the air in self-defence, but the accused allegedly continued to attack officers. **— BMB**

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Crowded corner

Ragigudda

Newly relocated bus stop near Ragigudda Metro in Jayanagar 5th Block leaves commuters without waiting space and blocks pedestrian movement.

Danger lurks

Shivajinagar

Residents demand immediate action at a dangerous junction in Shivajinagar, alleging repeated complaints over the past three months have gone unanswered.

Scrap spot

Ejipura

Bus stop in Ejipura has allegedly turned into a scrap dumping yard, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Green on paper, brown on ground

Five days after the record plantation drive, dried shoots, neglected saplings and barren ground cast doubt on Bengaluru's celebrated green milestone

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Just five days after the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) earned a Guinness World Record for planting 15 lakh native saplings within 12 hours, the reality on the ground appears to tell a different story. A visit by Bangalore Mirror to Shivaram Karanth Layout near Chikkabanavara, one of the key plantation sites, revealed scores of saplings that had already withered, dried up, bent over or were on the verge of dying, raising serious questions about the survival of the massive plantation drive.

On June 27, as part of Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations and the 'One Foot, One Plant' campaign, the BDA entered the Guinness World Records in the category 'Most Plants Planted by a Team in 12 Hours'. The achievement was hailed as a milestone in Bengaluru's greening efforts. However, what was expected to become a flourishing green belt now presents a starkly different picture.

At Shivaram Karanth Layout, where nearly one lakh saplings were reportedly planted, a significant number have already turned brown, shed their leaves and dried up completely. Several saplings have shrivelled stems, while others are bent over, showing clear signs of moisture stress. Instead of neat rows of fresh green saplings planted with much fanfare just days ago, several stretches now resemble rows of dry sticks. While Bangalore Mirror could not independently verify the exact percentage of saplings that have died, local observers estimate that nearly 25 to 30 per cent of the plantation at the site has already failed.

Wilting saplings overshadow record-breaking plantation, reigniting debate over survival and maintenance standards

BangaloreMirror
Just one big number game
Choice of single species, too little space between saplings and other such issues mar BDA's massive plantation drive
BM reported on Wednesday about the problems with massive plantation drive

Experts say several factors could have contributed to the early mortality. Residents and volunteers at the site alleged that while each sapling was watered on the day of planting, there appeared to have been little or no follow-up irrigation. With the area's red soil drying rapidly under summer-like conditions, many saplings were left without adequate moisture for their roots. Arboriculture experts point out that newly planted trees require regular watering until their roots become established, and that failure to provide aftercare is among the leading reasons plantation drives fail despite impressive planting numbers.

The planting method has also come under scrutiny, with saplings placed barely a foot apart. While the BDA has described the drive as following the Miyawaki method, experts say dense planting succeeds only with intensive aftercare, including regular watering, mulching and close monitoring. Without this, saplings compete for moisture and are more vulnerable to heat stress.

Environmental experts stress that the first two weeks after planting are crucial for survival, renewing the debate over whether plantation drives should be judged by the number of saplings planted or those that survive.

Environmentalist AN Yellappa Reddy told Bangalore Mirror that plantation drives should be judged by sapling survival, not planting targets. He said healthy saplings need proper size, preparation and aftercare, adding that sustained maintenance helped achieve a nearly 90 per cent survival rate at the Dr Janaki Ammal Ethnobotanical Park.

Watt's the deal with fresh verification?

Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries scramble for paperwork as doorstep verification begins, fuelling confusion and fears that missing documents could threaten free electricity benefits

Confusion gripped several Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries on Wednesday as the Karnataka government's door-to-door verification drive got under way, with many expressing concern over the list of documents sought by officials. Beneficiaries, particularly those without ration cards or caste certificates, said they were unsure whether the absence of these documents would affect their eligibility for the free electricity scheme.

The statewide verification, launched by the Energy Department, is aimed at updating beneficiary records under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, which provides up to 200 units of free electricity to households. Electricity Supply Company (ESCOM) meter readers and officials are visiting homes to verify details using a mobile application and a declaration form.

The department has asked beneficiaries to keep documents such as Aadhaar (for verification), voter ID, PAN card, a passport-sized photograph, tenancy or rental agreement, where applicable, ration card and caste certificate ready. While officials have maintained that the exercise is intended to verify records, the inclusion of multiple documents has left several beneficiaries uncertain about whether all of them are mandatory. Those who do not possess ration cards or caste certificates said they feared they could lose the benefit despite being genuine consumers.

Opposition questions expanded data collection, demanding clarity over eligibility rules and documentation requirements

Officials will collect the following details

- Ration card status (APL/BPL/ No ration card)
- BPL card number (if applicable)
- Karnataka voter ID (EPIC) number
- Applicant's photograph
- Category: SC/ST/OBC/ Minority/Others
- Income tax status
- PAN number (if applicable)
- Profession/Occupation

The verification follows Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's statement that the government had received complaints of commercial establishments allegedly misusing the scheme and that a fresh verification was needed to ensure the benefits reached only eligible households.

The exercise also triggered a political row, with Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka questioning why PAN cards and caste certificates were being sought. He argued that Aadhaar or voter ID should be sufficient for verification and alleged that the government was attempting to reduce the number of beneficiaries by introducing additional documentation requirements. He called on the government to clarify whether income or caste would have any bearing on eligibility under the scheme. —BMB

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INTERVIEW

KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA, BENGALURU DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

'300 pedestrians die every year; reclaiming footpaths is essential'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As announced, the city's civic corporations launched the footpath clearance drive on Wednesday. In this interview, the Minister explains the rationale behind the campaign, its implementation, and why the government believes reclaiming footpaths is essential for pedestrian safety.

Encroachments on priority footpaths are being removed as civic agencies coordinate operations across Bengaluru's busiest road stretches

The footpath clearance drive has triggered mixed reactions. Why has the government decided to take up this exercise now?

● Krishna Byre Gowda: The Supreme Court has made it very clear that pedestrians have a fundamental right to walk safely. It has issued directions to governments to ensure that footpaths are available and accessible to the public. We are implementing those directions, and I have instructed officials to take the necessary steps.

How extensive will the drive be across Bengaluru?

● Krishna Byre Gowda: Bengaluru has nearly 14,000 to 15,000 kilometres of roads. At this stage, we have identified about 2,000 kilometres, which is less than 20 per cent of the total road network. These are roads with heavy pedestrian movement, and we are prioritising them in the first phase. The exercise is being coordinated by commissioners of the five civic corporations, the police, and other government departments.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Shopkeepers say the drive is affecting their livelihoods. What is your response?

● Krishna Byre Gowda: We are not against anyone's business. People are free to conduct their business within the boundaries of their shops. However, footpaths are public property and cannot be encroached upon. Conducting business on footpaths or using them for parking is against the law. I appeal to shop owners to voluntarily remove encroachments and cooperate with the authorities. If everyone respects the law, there will be no need for confrontation.

Why is reclaiming footpaths such a priority for the government?

● Krishna Byre Gowda: Every day, we hear complaints from citizens that it is difficult to walk on footpaths because they are blocked. When pedestrians cannot use footpaths, they are forced to walk on the carriageway, exposing them to moving traffic. Every year, nearly 300 pedestrians lose their lives in road accidents in Bengaluru. Many of these deaths occur because people have no safe space to walk.

What message would you like to give to the public?

● Krishna Byre Gowda: If around 300 pedestrians are dying every year, it becomes our moral responsibility to prevent such tragedies. People have every right to demand safe and obstruction-free footpaths. It is the government's duty to protect that right and implement the Supreme Court's directions. We seek the cooperation of citizens, traders, and all stakeholders in making Bengaluru's roads safer for everyone.

Bulldozers roll in to clear B'luru's footpaths

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Earthmovers rolled onto city streets on Wednesday as civic authorities launched a citywide drive to clear encroachments from footpaths, reclaiming public spaces occupied by street vendors, shop extensions, parked vehicles and construction materials. The first phase will cover nearly 2,000 km of footpaths along the city's busiest arterial and sub-arterial roads.

The operation, spearheaded by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five civic corporations, got underway at 9.30 am after-ward- and zone-level action plans were finalised. Officials said the drive is in line with Supreme Court directions that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians and must remain obstruction-free.

The campaign began in Ward 153 under the Central City Corporation, where earthmovers cleared encroachments along the Ashoka Pillar-Madhavan Park stretch. Police personnel, engineers and civic officials supervised the operation as temporary structures and seized materials were loaded onto trucks. Officials said the drive would continue without exemptions and warned that cleared footpaths would be monitored to prevent fresh encroachments.

Simultaneous operations were carried out across the North, South, East, West and Central corporation limits. Key stretches identified for action include Trinity Junction-MG Road-MG Park, 100 Feet Road in Indiranagar up to Domlur Flyover, Vivekananda Metro Station to Benniganahalli Railway Bridge, and RV Road through Teachers' Colony to South End Circle.

Officials said notices had been served well in advance and awareness campaigns had been conducted before enforcement began. Additional police personnel were deployed at some locations after minor arguments broke out with affected occupants. Street vendors, however, opposed the eviction drive, saying many had been operating at the same locations for years. They demanded that the government provide designated vending zones or rehabilitation before removing them. Authorities maintained that the objective was to restore pedestrians' right to walk safely by removing obstructions from public footpaths.

Quarry owners slam drone survey, reject penalties under OTS scheme

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Association challenges royalty collection, calls penalties illegal, demands waiver and compensation, warns of agitation if government ignores concerns

The Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Association (FKQSCOA) on Wednesday opposed the drone survey conducted by the Mines and Geology Department, saying it was conducted unscientifically without following the norms and without keeping them in the loop.

"The Mines and Geology Department wants us to clear the dues through the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme. The department wants to fix the penalty based on the drone survey, which is unscientific. The penalty varies from one quarry owner to another. The minimum penalty is Rs 50,00,000. It is not possible for us to pay the penalty," said Ravindra Shetty, president, FKQSCOA.

He said that FKQSCOA filed a writ petition in the High Court seeking a direction to the Mines and Geology Department on the collection of royalty. "The honourable High Court has issued notices to all the departments in this regard," he said.

It is said the state government wanted to introduce a one-time settlement scheme for quarry owners who have not paid royalty for around 20 years. The government expects more than Rs 4,000 crore from the OTS scheme. It is said that many quarry owners have not paid the royalty since 2005.

Blaming the Mines and Geology Department for not following the norms in collecting the royalty, Kiran Raj, vice president of FKQSCOA, said the government has been collecting the royalty from the contractors while clearing the contractors' bills.

"Most quarry and stone crusher owners supply the minerals to the contractors who do works assigned by the government departments, including the Public Works Department and Housing Department. The respective departments have been deducting the royalty while clearing contractors' bills. How can the Mines and Geology Department collect the royalty from us again? We oppose it," said Kiran Raj.

Demanding that the government regularise the system of royalty collection, he said the government has to waive the penalty imposed on quarry and stone crusher owners. "Our petition is pending in the court. Imposing a penalty on the royalty and the system of paying royalty in government departments is illegal," he said.

Nagesh, a truck owner, committed suicide in front of the Mines and Geology Department office in Ramanagaram due to the harassment by officials. "The government has to announce Rs 1 crore as compensation for the family of the deceased," he said.

The FKQSCOA members said they would organise an agitation if the government fails to meet their demands.

Trade unions reject government's minimum wage review proposal

A joint committee of trade unions has opposed the Karnataka government's move to review or withdraw the recently notified revision of minimum wages, urging the State to retain the revised rates and warning of statewide protests if the notification is rolled back.

The Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), comprising several central and state trade unions, said the revision was long overdue, noting that minimum wages for 39 scheduled employments had not been revised since 2017-18.

The unions said the revised wages would benefit more than one crore working-class households by increasing incomes and boosting purchasing power. They urged the government not to revisit or withdraw the final notification.

According to the JCTU, the draft notification, proposing revised minimum wages ranging from Rs. 19,300 to Rs. 31,114, was issued in April 2025 and followed by a two-month period for inviting objections. The unions said the revision followed the methodology prescribed by the 15th Indian Labour Conference (1956). They added that the hike was around 40 per cent, disputing employers' claims of a 60 per cent increase. The JCTU also urged the government to await the Karnataka High Court's decision before taking any further action. It warned it would organise statewide protests, including demonstrations and a bandh, if the government withdraws the revised wages. –BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Norway fans go berserk

Following Norway's progress to the FIFA World Cup 2026 round of 16, thousands of Norway fans took to the streets, performing a mega "Viking row" celebration in Oslo on Tuesday, leaving behind some damage to city streets and metro trains in the process.

After Erling Haaland nailed the killer blow against Ivory Coast in their 2-1 win, a crowd of fans in red and blue stretched from the Royal Palace hundreds of metres along Karl Johans gate, the main street of the city, performing the synchronised 'Viking row' celebration that has taken the FIFA World Cup by storm just as much as their national side and, in particular, Haaland.

Notably, the 'Viking Row' is a popular celebration in which fans imitate the synchronised rowing of a traditional Viking ship. It represents unity, strength, and a collective fighting spirit. Much like the Vikings of history who rowed together before heading into battle, modern Norwegian supporters perform the gesture in unison to express team spirit and back their football side.

Near the Royal Palace, over-enthusiastic fans also uprooted plants and tore down fence posts.

"I dare not think what will happen if we make it all the way to the final," Royal Gardener Ole Johan Hildre said to Norwegian broadcaster NRK as quoted by Reuters.

Metro carriages were taken out of service by transit authorities as fans tore down the advertisements on them and put dents in carriage ceilings in the chaotic post-match celebrations. **—ANI**

3 fans die after Mexico win

At least three people died from suffocation after thousands of fans packed the streets of Mexico City during celebrations following Mexico's 2-0 FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 victory over Ecuador on Tuesday [local time], the capital's health secretariat said on Wednesday, as per Reuters.

The tragedy occurred near the Angel of Independence monument.

Emergency responders attended to three unconscious individuals at separate locations along Paseo de la Reforma, authorities said, as per Reuters. The capital's iconic boulevard and surrounding streets had been closed to traffic to accommodate thousands of fans celebrating the soccer victory.

"After receiving advanced resuscitation efforts, the deaths of a 44-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman from suffocation have been confirmed," the health authority initially said on social media, as per Reuters.

The health secretariat later said a third person, a 48-year-old woman, suffered asphyxiation on a nearby street. She was treated by emergency responders but died after being transported to a hospital.

Co-hosts Mexico advanced to the World Cup Round of 16 with a convincing 2-0 victory over Ecuador in Mexico City, ending a long wait for a knockout-stage triumph at the tournament. **—ANI**

Mbappe shatters all-time knockout goals record

French captain Kylian Mbappe continued his impressive 2026 FIFA World Cup goal-scoring form as he shattered the all-time knockout goals record while also leapfrogging Argentine great Lionel Messi in the Golden Boot race.

Mbappe, who is featuring in his third World Cup, secured a brace, his third of the tournament, in the 3-0 rout of Sweden in the Round of 32 clash to level with Argentine great Lionel Messi on six goals but edged him with two assists.With the French No. 10 sweeping home to make a half-dozen at World Cup 2026. He will have the chance to add to his haul when France face Paraguay in the Round of 16 at Philadelphia Stadium on July 5.

Kylian Mbappe (R) of France celebrates his first goal with coach Didier Deschamps

The Frenchman's brace, his third of the tournament, moved him to within one goal of Lionel Messi's all-time mark of 19. He struck twice to take his World Cup tally to 18 goals, now two clear of Miroslav Klose and only one behind Lionel Messi, with further movement between the leading duo almost certain in the coming days. **—IANS**

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Place: Mumbai
Date: 18.06.2026 **General Manager (RP & PM)**

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IMPORTANT DATES		
Activity	**PO/MT**	**Specialist Officers**
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	01.07.2026 to 21.07.2026	01.07.2026 to 21.07.2026
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	01.07.2026 to 21.07.2026	01.07.2026 to 21.07.2026
Edit Window for Candidates to Modify/ Correct Application Form (including online payment for Edit)	After closure of Registration (will be notified on Official IBPS website)	After closure of Registration (will be notified on Official IBPS website)
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	August 2026	--
Online Examination – Preliminary	**August 2026**	**August 2026**
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	September 2026	September / October 2026
Online Examination – Main	**October 2026**	**November 2026**
Declaration of Result – Main Examination	November 2026	November 2026
Personality Test	**November 2026**	**--**
Conduct of interview	November / December 2026	November / December 2026
Provisional Allotment	January 2027	January 2027

Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Candidates intending to apply are advised to read detailed Notification carefully and ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated dates before registering online. Candidates must follow the instructions mentioned in each detailed Notification.

Mumbai
Date: 01/07/2026 **DIRECTOR**

What goes on in the brain of a murderer?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family disputes such as property revenge and mounting financial stress.

The city also witnessed several gang-rivalry killings, notably that of a rowdy sheeter who was hacked to death on a busy road, allegedly over long-standing enmity and revenge.

The city also witnessed multiple relationship-driven murders that highlighted how emotional distress can escalate into deadly violence. A 23-year-old woman, Anjali, was allegedly stabbed to death by her boyfriend after she ended their relationship. In another case from Bommanahalli, a 40-year-old woman was found dead in her rented house. In a separate incident, a 22-year-old receptionist from Sikkim was brutally assaulted and killed inside her room following a dispute over suspected infidelity.

In another sensational case that drew widespread attention in April, police investigated a murder allegedly linked to BDSM activities, concerning a toxic relationship, consent, and psychological manipulation. Police arrested 27-year-old Prema for allegedly luring her boyfriend, Kiran (27), to her home in Anjananagar under the pretext of intimate BDSM role-play. Investigators said she restrained and tied him up before allegedly burning him to death after learning that he intended to end their relationship.

Mental health experts say Bengaluru's rising murder rate cannot be understood purely through a criminal lens, as multiple psychological and socio-economic factors are contributing to violent behaviour.

Dr. Suresh Bada Math, Professor of Psychiatry and Head of the Forensic Psychiatry Unit at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, said, "From a forensic psychiatric perspective, Bengaluru's murder rate is driven by a mix of rapid urbanisation, poverty, migration, social factors, economic strain, substance abuse, drugs, alcohol use, social media, easy access to internet, poor family support structure, social networks and few friends. Glamour and clamour of a metropolitan city, loneliness, high ambition coupled with greed is a recipe for crime disaster."

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that murder was a serious illegal act under the law, and action is taken against those involved. "Whether triggered by minor disputes, family trust issues or violence between people who share close personal relationships, financial stress, property conflicts, or gang attacks for revenge, there is no justification for taking the law into one's own hands," he emphasised.

As rational thinking diminishes, actions become increasingly driven by immediate emotion rather than careful reasoning, leading to violence

However, psychiatrists have decoded the underlying psychological reactions in moments that cause people to lose control. According to Dr. Math, many murders stem from intense emotional episodes triggered by chronic stress and relationship conflict. Financial strain and interpersonal problems are among the strongest psychological stressors affecting individuals.

He explained that prolonged stress causes interpersonal issues or relationship breakup that activates the body's stress response, leading to prolonged release of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline. "Over time, as anxiety and frustration intensify, the functioning of the prefrontal cortex, the region of the brain responsible for rational thinking, planning, judgment, and impulse control, is affected."

"At the same time, heightened emotional arousal increases activity in the amygdala and other limbic structures, which are involved in processing emotions, fear, reward, motivation, and sexual behaviour. When emotional pressure becomes overwhelming, people may shift from reflective thinking to reactive behaviour. As rational thinking diminishes, actions become increasingly driven by immediate emotion rather than careful reasoning," Dr. Math said.

He said there may be warning indicators families and friends should not ignore. Social withdrawal, persistent irritability, hopelessness, obsessive thinking, insomnia, restlessness, and increased dependence on alcohol or substances may signal declining psychological resilience.

He said there is a need to reform education systems to give equal importance to life skills, emotional intelligence, resilience, stress management, conflict resolution, and healthy coping mechanisms alongside academic achievement. "Workplaces, too, must prioritise mental wellness and create environments where stress and emotional distress are addressed early," Dr. Math added.

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I, PARAMESWARI.P, D/o. P. Padmanaban, R/a. #53, Rehman Manzil, 4th A Cross, Muniswamy Reddy Layout, Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore –560016. I, have Changed my name to KOUSAR JABEEN, Vide affidavit, dated 24/06/2026 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan. Bangalore

I SHAHNAZ R/@ No 1/18 Jaffar Street Hosur Krishnagiri-635109 has changed my name to SHANAZ for all purposes

I Santhil Kumar S S/o Shivaram R R/o No. 21, 1st Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Sulthanpalya, RT Nagar Post,B'luru 560032 have chang - ed my name as Sendhilkumar S

I, Akhila K, W/0 of Hari Kishan Kasaru have changed my name to Akhila D V. Henceforth, I shall be known as Akhila D V for all purposes.

I, Ramesh S/o Devappa No 163 3rd Cross Jayanthinagar Horamavu B'lore 560043 have changed my name to Ramesh M for all purposes.

I, Yashaswini Naveen Kumar w/o NaveenKumar Munilakshmaiah, Old # 270/2 New # 27 BMP 8th Main 6th B Cross Sriramareddy Lyt Kaggadasapura B'luru-560093 have changed my name to Yashaswini Ananda Reddy for all purposes

I, Shathananda Bharadwaj R/o # 617, Royal Park Residency, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Anjana pura, Bengaluru 560108,Have Changed My Name to Shatananda Bharadwaj, Shall Be Called by This Name for All Purpose.

I, DHARSHAN, Residing at No 105/1, 3rd Main, Pramod Layout, Near PESIT, Panthar-palya, Bangalore-560039, Have changed my name to DHARSHAN D vide affidavit dated 30/06/2026 sworn be-fore Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Bharat Gera s/o Omprakash Gera, Villa M4 Chaitanya Samarpan Whitefield Hoskote Rd AWHO Apts Kannamangala B'luru-560067 have changed my name to Bharat Omprakash Gera for all purposes

I, Suma Sadanand R/o # 617, Royal Park Residency, Jp Nagar, 9th Phase, Anjanapura, Bengaluru - 560108, Have Changed My Name to Suma Sadananda, Shall Be Called by This Name for All Purpose.

I, Rijuta Venu Gowda D/O Shailaja R Gowda # No-29, 4th B Main, Navodaya Nagar, JP Nagar, 7th Phase Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to Rishitha Venu Gowda for all purposes

I, Poonam Anuj Grover D/O Vijay Kumar nangia R/O C404 innovative Aqua front doddanekundi bangalore have changed my name to Poonam Vijay kumar nangia for all purposes

I, SULTANA.M, R/a,#4444,Sait Compound, Bangarpet-563114. I have Changed my name to SULTHANA, Vide affidavit, dated 27/06/2026 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I Mohammed Ibrahim Mainuddin, S/o Mohammed Hussain, Residing at, No 770, 2nd Stage, kuvempu Nagar, jalahalli East, Bengaluru 560014, have changed my name to Mohammed Ibrahim Moinuddin for all purposes

I, Rahamad Bee W/o Sabajan Sab R/o No 19 Khaleel Manzil Vinayaka Nagara Near Khushi bakery R R Layout Chikkaba-navara Post Bangalore-560090. Changed my name as Rahamath B for all purposes

I, Pratyusha Paulchowdhury Basak R/o D504, Jain Heights East parade Apts, L N Reddy Main Road, Vignan Nagar, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name to Pratyusha Paul Chowdhury.

I, Shujathulla, R/at No.3 M, 4th Street, Slaughter House Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051, have change my name to C Shujathulla, for all purposes.

I, Ashwini Sadanand Bharadwaj R/o 617, Royal Park Residency, 2nd a Main Road, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Anjana pura Bengaluru 560108 Have Changed My Name to Ashwini Sadananda Bharadwaj, Shall Be Called by This Name for All Purpose.

I, N Suraiya Fathima, D/o Abida Beevi K, R/o #13 Zainabi Residency, KHB Main road, Kanaka Nagar, Bangalore, I have changed my name to Suraiya Fathima, vide affidavit no IN-KA06432422740010Y dated 30/06/2026 at Karnataka.

I, Shaikh Nisarahmed Gulmohammed s/o Gulmahmad Shaikh R/o No. 1537 3rd Cross Chamundi Nagar Main Road, Seetappa Layout RT Nagar post B'luru 560032 have changed my name as Nisar Gulmahmad Shaikh

I Mohmed Muzamil Peer S/O, Shaik Mahamod R/o No.2,durgamma Temple Street, kalasipalya, bangalore, karnataka - 560002 have changed my name to Mohammed Muzammil Peer.

I, Bhairakdar Parveentaj Ibrahim R/o #9,4th A Cross, Kempegowda layout , N Nagenahalli , Dr. SRK nagar post B'lore-560077 have changed my name to Praveentaj Ibrahimsab Bhairakdar.

I, ASIFULLA KHAN, R/at No.27, 1st Cross, Fire Works Colony, J C Road, Bangalore-560002, Have Changed My Name To MOHAMMED ASIF ULLA KHAN, For All Purposes

I, Pushpa Devi, R/at No.401, HR Manzil, Rachanahalli Main Road, Thanisandra, Bangalore-560077, Have Changed My Name To Shifa Faiyaz Ahmed, For All Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ramakrishna Reddy .N S/o late Narasimha Reddy, residing at Nanjayagarahalli village, Nagaragere hobli, Gowribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur-561228, stating that, my father name has been mentioned in the passport as Narasimhappa instead of Narasimha Reddy. I hereby request the concern authorities to consider my father's correct name as Narasimha Reddy as in the Aadhara and PAN card. Therefore, i have filed an affidavit before Notary and Lawyer Muniswamy Reddy, Chikkaballapur on 01.07.2026.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

This is to bring to the Notice of **N.Jeevan** S/o. Late Naveen and Smt.Vathsala, and Grandson of Late R.Muniraju and Smt. Lalitha. Since you are not heard and seen since the year 2021, the Site No.19, Ashwathkatte Road, Old Gurappanapalya, Bangalore-560029 is up for sale, if you have any objections please contact Mr. Umesh or Smt. Lalitha within **15 days** from the date of this publication and objection or claims received thereafter will not bind Mr. Umesh.K and Mr. Umesh.K will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as there are no claimants/objections.

SCHEDULE

Residential Property with building having Site No.19, situated at Ashwathkatte Road, Old Gurappanapalya, Bangalore-560029 and bounded by East by: Ashwathkatte, West by: Pvt. Property, North by: Govt. Road, South by: Munichinnappa Property. North to South: 25 Feet & East to West: 30 Feet.

Sd/- Umesh.K, Advocate
63,12th Cross, 5th Main,
Wilson Garden, Bangalore-30
Mobile: 7795641152
Place: Bangalore: Date: 02-07-2026

GALLERIA

WHY DOES OUR MIND WANDER?

New study taps into tricks of staying on task

You're sitting at your desk, writing a short story. You remain focused but after several hours, you still can't see how to end it. So you go for a run, allowing your thoughts to run with you. Instead of stumbling on a rock, you fall onto a solution.

Sometimes, problems do not have obvious answers. The "eureka" solution comes when we are not expecting it, when our mind wanders. But what causes our mind to wander? What about running lets us come up with an answer that sitting at our desk does not?

While we often think of mind wandering as detrimental, it can spark creativity. By better understanding the situations in which mind wandering emerges, we can better design our work and play not just to solve problems, but also to enjoy where our mind takes us.

My recent study, published in the journal Consciousness and Cognition, aims to explore what aspects of a task result in mind wandering.

A U-shaped curve

It has long been thought that mind wandering follows a U-shaped curve in relation to task difficulty.

Let's go back to the example of writing a short story to understand this. Though "optimally" difficult for you, making you stay on task, for me, it is too difficult. I switch off and my mind wanders more.

However, reading a book to my three-year-old for the 50th time is too easy. Again my mind wanders.

That is the U-shaped curve: if things are too easy or too hard, people's minds wander.

But research that assesses whether mind wandering is caused by the level of difficulty of a task often compares dissimilar tasks – say, searching for Wally compared to counting backwards in sevens.

Several cognitive processes may be involved, which makes distinguishing the drivers of mind wandering more difficult.

Tapping into the brain's control system

In our experiment, we asked 80 participants to perform one of three highly controlled and uniform tasks – all of which tapped into the brain's inhibitory control system.

In the first task, people either always reacted to a "go" signal, or had to stop themselves reacting. This is known as a "go/no-go" task, in which participants must sometimes withhold their automatic response.

In the second task, participants had to respond to one of two letters, or one of six letters. This is known as a "forced choice" task. Here, people are thought to ready all responses, and stop themselves pushing the wrong response button.

In the third task, participants had to select the highest of two numbers, while ignoring that sometimes the higher-value number was written in a smaller font. This is known as a "numerical Stroop task", in which people have to inhibit, or ignore, incongruent information (the font size) in favour of the value of the number. If the number values are closer together, this task is harder.

During each of these tasks, we occasionally asked participants whether their mind was wandering, along with monitoring their reaction times and their accuracy.

In the first two tasks, people's minds wandered more when they didn't have to actively stop a response, and when they had only two possible responses to make. Similarly, responses were quicker in these easier tasks, and more accurate.

The results from the third task were more surprising.

When the task was more difficult – when the number values were closer together – people's reactions were slower and less accurate. But the level of difficulty had no effect on mind wandering: people's minds still wandered, roughly the same amount as in the easier tasks.

The trick of staying on task

These findings show that when we engage our inhibitory control system, we pay more attention and take our time in responding. In other words, if we don't have to control our attention, we might not.

So if you want to stay on task, try an activity that involves stopping yourself sometimes, or making decisions where the easy choice may not be the right one. If you want your mind to wander, try a steadier and more consistent activity.

And remember that not every problem will be worked through by sitting at your desk. Sometimes, you do need to let your mind wander to give yourself the space to solve problems creatively.

(By Jordan Wehrman, University of Sydney, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

More B'luru women show early signs of reduced ovarian reserve

A growing number of women in their late 20s and early 30s are showing signs of reduced ovarian reserve, according to observations from fertility specialists in Bengaluru, raising concerns about declining fertility potential at younger ages.

Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH), a marker used to assess ovarian reserve, is increasingly being found at lower-than-expected levels among women aged 28–35 who undergo fertility evaluations.

Reduced ovarian reserve indicates that the number of eggs remaining in the ovaries is lower than what is generally expected for a woman's age.

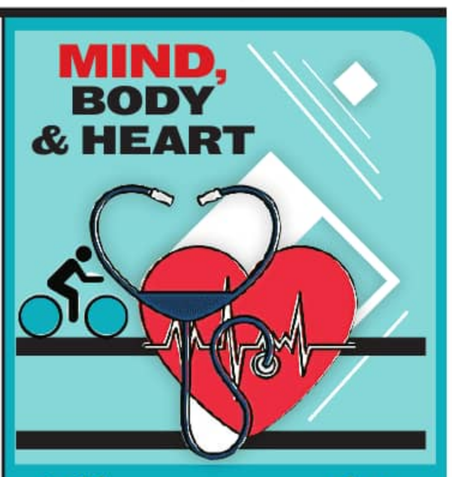
Dr Apurva Satish Amarnath, fertility specialist at Nova IVF Fertility, said the trend has become more noticeable in recent years.

"This is not formal research, but rather an observation based on my clinical practice. If I have observed more than 500 women, approximately 100–150 women have low ovarian reserve. Earlier, maybe five years ago, we observed this in women in their mid-30s to late 30s; however, today we are seeing this in women in their late 20s and early 30s too," she said.

Data from Nova IVF Fertility suggests that nearly 30 per cent of women between 28 and 35 years of age had AMH levels below 1.0 ng/mL, a level commonly associated with reduced ovarian reserve.

Similarly, observations from Motherhood Fertility & IVF indicate that among women aged 28–35 undergoing fertility evaluation, approximately 30–50 per cent recorded AMH levels below 2 ng/mL, while 14–26 per cent had AMH levels below 1 ng/mL.

With fertility patterns changing, specialists say greater awareness and timely reproductive planning could help women make informed decisions about their future family-building goals. **—Iffath Fathima**



All you need to know about...

Almonds in diet

For years, almonds have been unfairly cast as the villain in weight-loss conversations. Because they are calorie-dense and rich in fat, many people assume that eating them regularly will lead to weight gain — and so they become one of the first foods to go when someone begins a diet. But nutrition science tells a different story. Researchers have taken a closer look at how nuts fit into healthy eating patterns, and the findings challenge many long-held assumptions. Rather than contributing to weight gain, almonds may actually support weight management when consumed as part of a balanced diet.

Satiety factor

Almonds offer a powerful nutritional trio: protein, fibre and healthy fats. Together, these nutrients promote satiety — the feeling of fullness and satisfaction after eating — which can reduce the urge to snack frequently or overeat at subsequent meals.

When people feel genuinely satisfied after a snack, they are less likely to seek additional food or larger portions later in the day. Over time, these small choices can meaningfully contribute to better portion awareness and improved eating habits.

Bigger picture

Almonds can also play a role in elevating overall diet quality. Healthy eating is rarely about a single ingredient — it is shaped by the foods we choose consistently over time. Incorporating nutrient-rich options into daily meals and snacks helps create a more balanced eating pattern.

That said, context always matters. No single food can guarantee weight loss or prevent weight gain. Almonds work best as part of a well-rounded approach, not as a quick fix. **—Femina**

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@BangaloreMirror

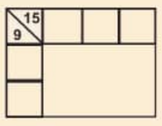
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$\sqrt[(x+1)!]{(125\hat{}(x+2)!)} = 25\hat{}12$

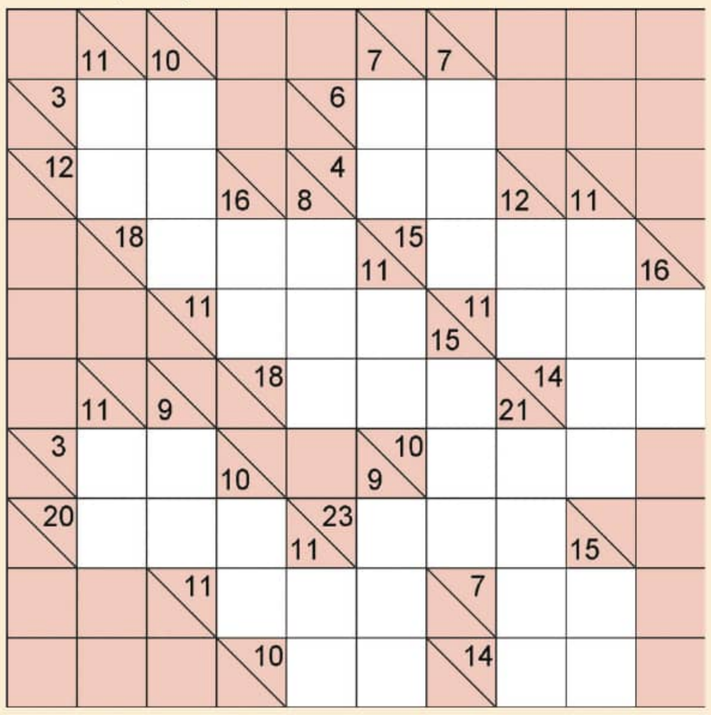
x = ?

Kakuro

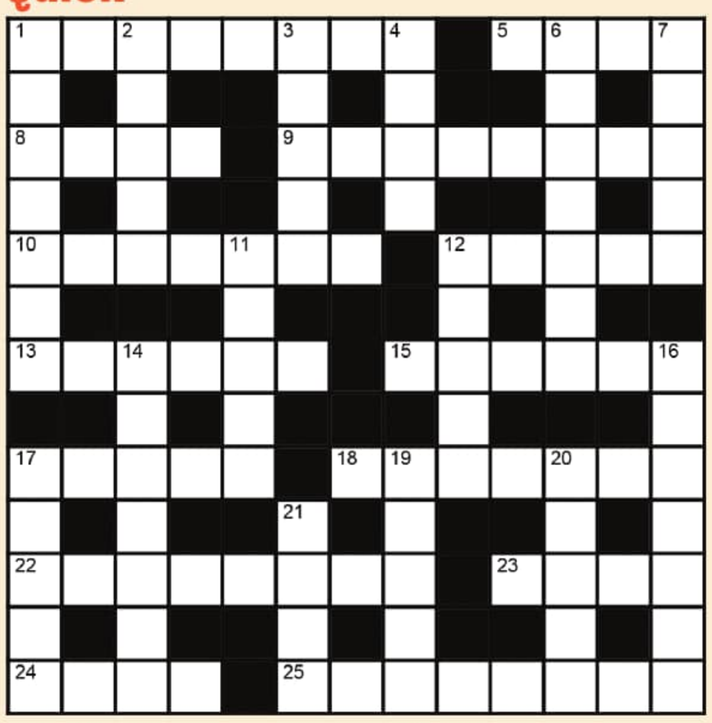
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 ___ ___ view : general or panoramic view from above? (5,3)
5 A feudal slave (4)
8 French fry (4)
9 Karnataka Rajyotsava is celebrated on the 1st of ____ (8)
10 Of the same family (7)
12 Morose; rude (5)
13 Settle in military barracks (6)
15 In blossom (6)
17 This may be used on a bed (5)
18 Fruit-filled pastry (7)
22 Southern US state (8)
23 Teller of falsehoods (4)
24 Becomes firm (4)
25 ___ __ his advice : doing as he counselled? (6,2)

DOWN

1 Two-wheel transport (7)
2 Having regret (5)
3 Surrealist painter Max (5)
4 Deadly sin (4)
6 Prohibition on trade (7)
7 Raid (5)
11 Let in (5)
12 Not at all drunk (5)
14 It's not ___ : it's not a fair play? (7)
16 F1 team (7)
17 Jetties (5)
19 On which to see the cricket match live? (2,3)
20 Passing away (5)
21 Our continent (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS D

DK CMN GMXL IMULMSL, ILE EALU KJLL. DK EALC QMUL VBQZ EALC'JL CMNJI; DK EALC HMS'E EALC SLXLJ PLJL.

Linemaro

Did you know there were 21 letters in the alphabet? Oh, I forgot U R A QT

Mindchow

Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it

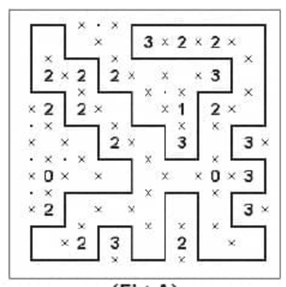
Joke of the day

What do you call someone without a nose or a body? Nobodynose

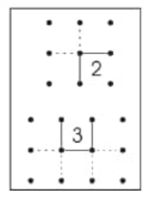
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

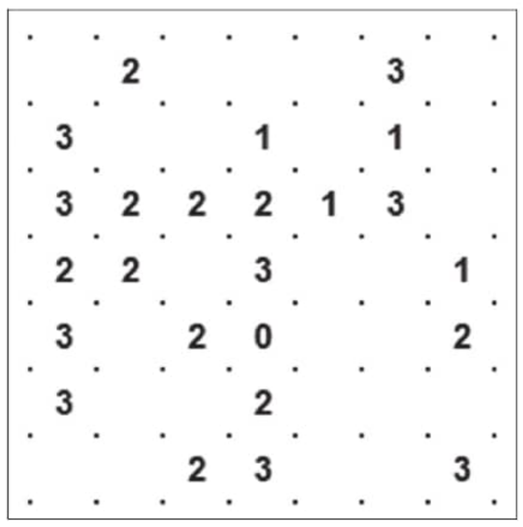


(Fig B) Not Allowed

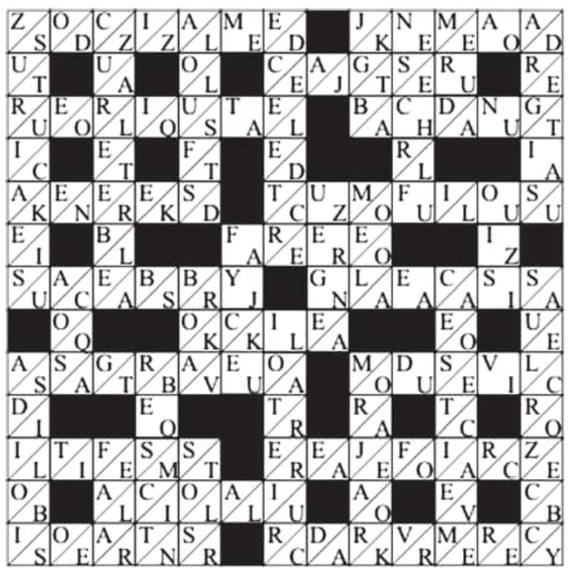
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



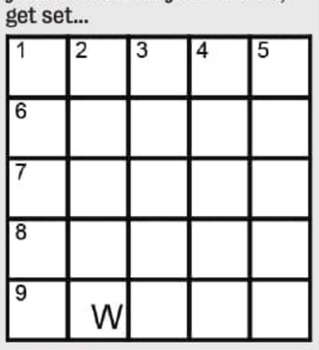
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sos Dr; 6 Amper; 7 Agues; 8 Bears; 9 Warms

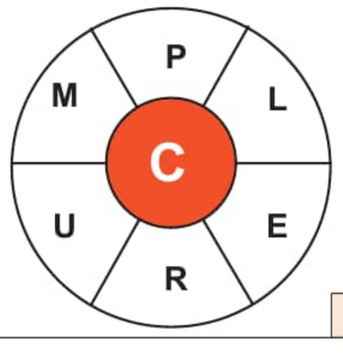
DOWN

1 Bus Dr; 2 Wears; 3 Samoa; 4 Rages; 5 Perms

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				2				
4		2	5			9	1	
	1		9				3	7
8	2			1		7		4
3		7		6			8	1
6	3				1		2	
	4	1			3	8		6
				4				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

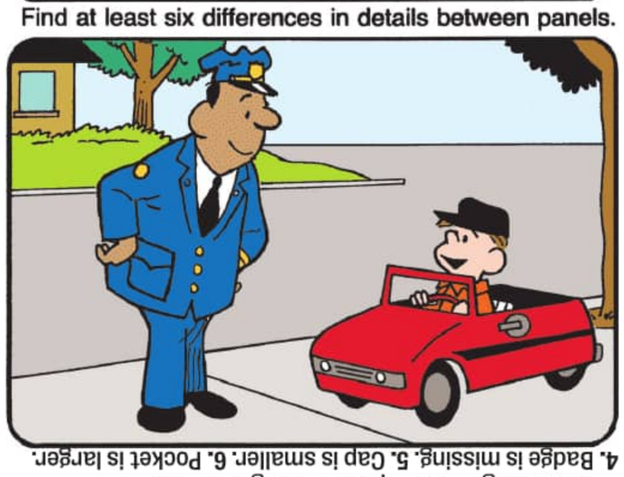
Easy = 7
2 8 8 9

Medium = 18
2 4 4 9

Hard = 8
1 2 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



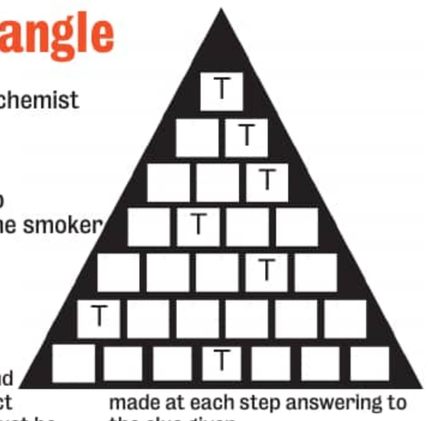
Differences: 1. Car door handle is reversed. 2. Car is longer. 3. Stripe is missing from sleeve. 4. Badge is missing. 5. Cap is smaller. 6. Pocket is larger.

Riddler

In English, "re" is a prefix usually meaning "again", such as in "rebuild" (build again). However, there are many words starting with "re" which have a totally different meaning without the "re". You will be given two definitions, one for a word starting with "re", and one for the remaining word without the "re" (either definition could be given first). **1.** rental contract / let go **2.** give back / change direction **3.** give food / hold back **4.** illegal seizure of power / get back something lost

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Astatine for the chemist
3 Posed
4 Remain
5 Rash
6 Flashy and cheap
7 Receptacle for the smoker

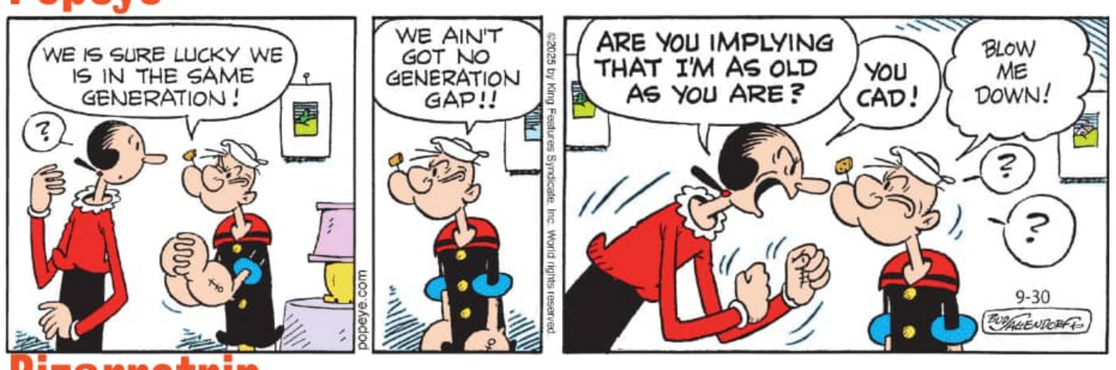


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WE IS SURE LUCKY WE IS IN THE SAME GENERATION!
WE AIN'T GOT NO GENERATION GAP!!
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M AS OLD AS YOU ARE?
YOU CAD!
BLOW ME DOWN!
9-30
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THIS IS A COSMIC SIGN! I NEED TO AUDITION TO BE THE SCHOOL MASCOT!
AUDITIONS
BUT YOU'RE NOT VERY ATHLETIC...
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
I DON'T NEED TO BE! I'M NOT PLAYING BASKETBALL. I'M PROMOTING BASKETBALL!
MASCOT
AUDITIONS
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
3/23

Crankshaft

I ONLY LEARNED HOW TO WORK ON A COMPUTER...
TO GUARD AGAINST THE DAY WHEN THEY STOP MAKING PAPER...
3-21
BUT I DOUBT THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN...
KNOCK ON WOOD... ALTHOUGH IT IS AN ANTIQUE DRAWING BOARD!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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Mutts

"ANIMALS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN IF THEY HAVE LEGS, SWIM IF THEY HAVE FINS, AND FLY IF THEY HAVE WINGS."
GRETCHEN WYLER
YESH!
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WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your emotional intelligence and intuition are sharpening to a razor edge this year. You will find yourself reading between the lines effortlessly, helping you navigate complex relationships and make choices that align perfectly with your soul's true purpose

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Your spiritual gateways are opening, Aries, raising your vibration. Release old wounds without suppressing them. Letting go may hurt, yet meditation can ease the process and become a powerful daily practice.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

A difficult situation may teach self-worth, Taurus. Invite loving energy into toxic circumstances. Release attachment to others' negativity and stay neutral. Let projections pass through while remaining grounded in yourself.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Today holds magical potential, Gemini. Choices made now can bring rewards. If concerns arise, seek spiritual protection. Prioritize peace, trust outcomes are unfolding, and watch everything connect beautifully soon.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Consider yourself the recorder of your soul's guidance, Cancer. Trust inner nudges without needing proof first. Following intuition can unlock opportunities. Focus inward, and divine support will arrive perfectly.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

You may feel torn between action and rest, Leo. Release whatever keeps you stagnant. New pathways are emerging, showing that different routes can ultimately lead toward meaningful growth and fulfillment.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Keep the community central today, Virgo. Great leadership comes through connection, not hierarchy. Value everyone around you and create harmony. Extend this balance elsewhere in life, remembering your presence makes differences.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Healing energy is approaching quickly, Libra. Support arrives for current challenges. Express your needs honestly while setting positive intentions. By honoring yourself, you inspire others and invite fulfillment now.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Release fears, limitations, and restrictive thinking, Scorpio. Greater balance creates favourable outcomes. Your priorities may be evolving naturally. Trust that needs will be met, set intentions, and surrender control.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Treat your ideas like valuable treasures, Sagittarius. Progress steadily toward goals, building success one step at a time. Stay organized while multitasking, and trust divine support without exhausting yourself.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

You inspire more people than you realize, Capricorn. Your independence, convictions, and support for others create lasting impact. Stay aligned with your truth and allow spiritual guidance to lead.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

An exciting, magical period is beginning, Aquarius. Opportunities, resources, and gifts are approaching. Clear space by sharing what no longer serves you, and confidently welcome blessings arranged ahead.

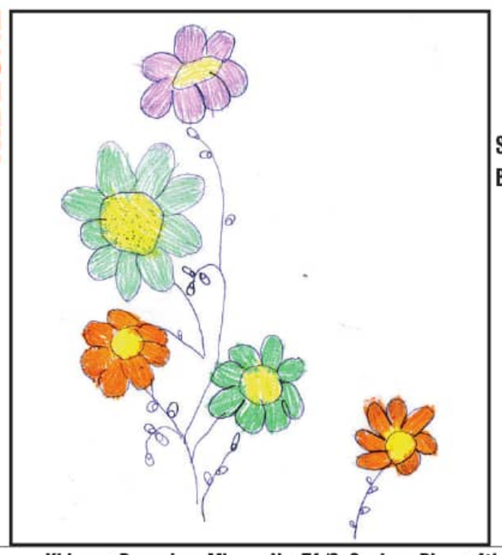
Transformation is arriving,

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

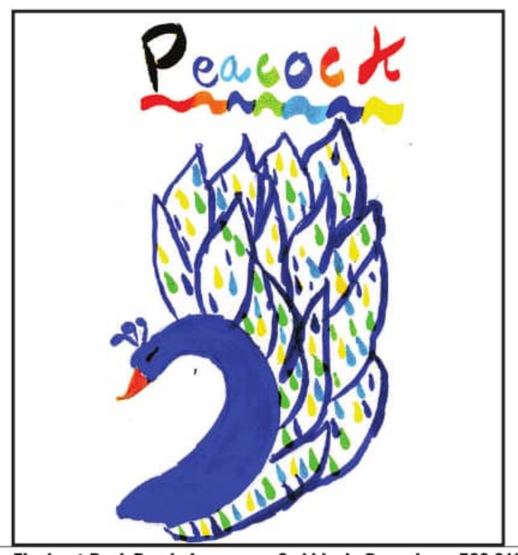
Pisces. Intuition, inspiration, emotions, and physical signals may intensify. Listen carefully to your body's messages, trust your inner guidance, and invite greater clarity ahead.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Sanat, Bengaluru



Kushi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$125^{\wedge}(x+2)j / (x+1)j = 25^{\wedge}12$
$125^{\wedge}((x+2)(x+1)j/(x+1)j = 25^{\wedge}12$
$5^{\wedge}3(x+2) = 5^{\wedge}24$
$5^{\wedge}3x+6 = 5^{\wedge}24; 3x+6 = 24; x=6$

BULL'S EYE

clue, clump, cruel, CRUMPLE, cure, curl, ecru, lucre, puce, ulcer

QUOTE UNCODE

If you love someone, set them free. If they come back they're yours; if they don't they never were.

FAST FIVE

D	R	O	S	S
R	E	M	A	P
B	A	S	E	R
U	S	A	G	E
S	W	A	R	M

STRIKE OUT

S	O	Z	Z	L	E	D	■	K	N	E	A	D	■	■
T	■	A	■	O	■	E	A	G	E	R	■	E	■	■
■	I	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	R	■	A	■
R	O	R	Q	U	■	A	L	■	B	H	A	N	G	■
K	N	E	■	S	■	T	U	M	U	L	■	U	S	■
E	■	B	■	F	E	R	E	■	Z	■	■	■	■	■
S	C	A	B	B	Y	■	G	L	A	C	I	S	■	■
A	S	T	R	A	E	A	■	M	U	S	I	C	■	■
■	O	■	■	O	K	I	E	■	O	■	■	E	■	■
D	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	T	■	■	R	■	■	■
I	T	E	M	S	■	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	■	■
O	■	A	I	O	L	I	■	O	■	V	■	C	■	■
S	O	R	T	S	■	C	A	R	V	E	R	Y	■	■

QUICK

S	E	T	S	■	A	C	T	I	N	G	O	N	■	■
Y	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	■	■	■
A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S	■	L	I	A	R	■	■
U	■	C	■	A	■	V	■	Y	■	A	■	■	■	■
Q	U	I	L	T	■	S	T	R	U	D	E	L	■	■
■	■	R	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	C	■	■
E	N	C	A	M	P	■	A	B	L	O	O	M	■	■
L	■	■	■	D	■	■	■	O	■	G	■	■	■	■
C	O	G	N	A	T	E	■	S	U	R	L	Y	■	■
Y	■	N	■	S	■	Y	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	■
C	H	I	P	■	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	■	■
I	■	U	■	R	■	N	■	M	■	O	■	■	■	■
B	I	R	D	S	E	Y	E	■	S	E	R	F	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

K. The central number in each triangle equals double the sum of the numerical values of the letters on the triangles points.

RIDDLER

1. lease / release,
2. return / turn,
3. serve / reserve,
4. coup / recoup

SUDOKU

9	8	3	1	2	7	6	4	5
4	7	2	5	3	6	9	1	8
5	1	6	9	8	4	2	3	7
8	2	5	3	1	9	7	6	4
1	6	4	8	7	5	3	9	2
3	9	7	4	6	2	5	8	1
6	3	8	7	5	1	4	2	9
7	4	1	2	9	3	8	5	6
2	5	9	6	4	8	1	7	3

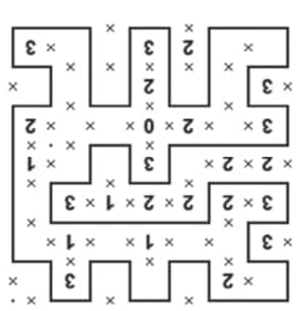
ALPHA TRIANGLE

T, At, Sat, Stay, Hasty, Trashy, Ashtray.

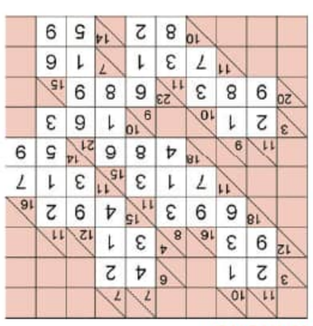
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 - 8 + 9 - 2 = 7
Medium
2 x 9 + 4 - 4 = 18
Hard
6 + 5 - 2 - 1 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO



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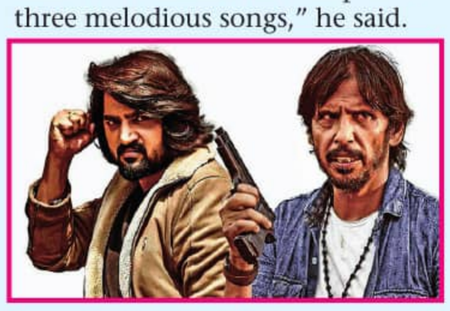
 # Family meeting waits
Jacob Elordi and Kendall Jenner are growing closer, but he has yet to meet the Kardashian-Jenner family

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Thriller Manju returns

Thriller Manju and Abhay Veer starrer Deadly Killer is scheduled to arrive in theatres on Friday across the state. With this film, Thriller Manju, known for directing the box-office hit Police Story, returns to the director's chair after a gap of 15 years. Abhay Veer and Niviksha Munirathnam play the lead pair in the thriller-horror film. Apart from directing, Thriller Manju also plays a key role, while Prashanth T Tambrallimath has produced the film under the banners of Keerthi Silver Screen and Vedic Cosmos.

"The film has shaped up well, with its trailer already creating a buzz. Its highlight is six distinct action sequences, while Niviksha Munirthnam impresses as a homemaker with two contrasting shades," said producer Prashanth T Tambrallimath. Director Thriller Manju said the film follows a hero hunting six gangsters who flee into a forest. "Packed with twists and turns, it is designed to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Vinu Manas has composed three melodious songs," he said.



Comedy meets emotion

Actor Poornachandra Mysore, known for around 20 Kannada films, including Lucia, Nathicharami, Badava Rascal and Orchestra Mysuru, is set to make his directorial debut with the Kannada film Mother Promise. Its trailer was unveiled recently. Dolly Dhananjay, apart from playing a key role, is backing the film.

"I'm delighted to make my directorial debut with Mother Promise. Dolly Dhananjay's unwavering support and encouragement made the journey smooth despite being the producer. The film is an out-and-out comedy, and I hope it becomes a favourite with audiences," said debutant director Poornachandra Mysore.

He said directing the film was effortless thanks to Dolly Dhananjay's constant support. "He has no ego and remained warm and approachable throughout the shoot," he said. The film features several newcomers alongside Dolly Dhananjay, Nagabhushan, Vinaya Prasad, Geetha and Guru Dutt.

Saif defends privacy over publicity

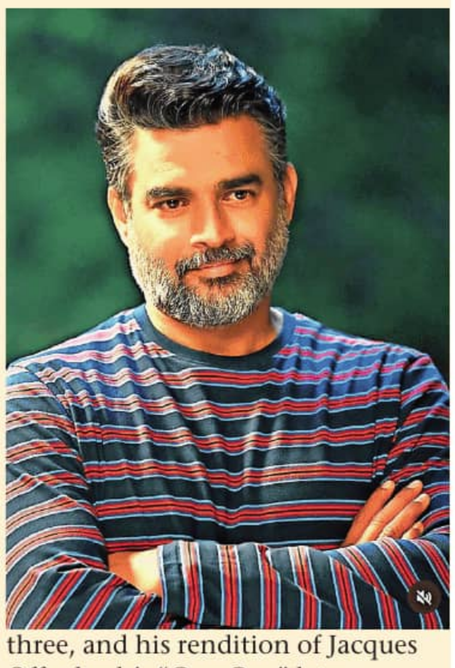
Saif Ali Khan has voiced concerns over India's growing paparazzi culture, saying constant public exposure diminishes the aura of film stars and highlighting the need to respect personal boundaries.

Speaking to Barkha Dutt, Saif said relentless media attention takes away the "magic of the screen". "I feel it takes away from stardom in a huge way because you keep seeing these guys every day," he said. While acknowledging that paparazzi help celebrities connect with audiences, Saif said he never felt the need for such visibility. "My life was fine without them," he added, stressing that photographers and journalists perform different roles.

The actor also referred to an incident in which photographers allegedly entered the premises of his home, saying they had "crossed a line" and emphasising that public figures deserve privacy and personal space.

On the work front, Saif will next be seen in Priyadarshan's Haiwaan, releasing worldwide on September 11, 2026, reuniting him with Akshay Kumar after 18 years. — ETimes

Madhavan applauds genius



Actor R Madhavan recently came across a performance that left him in complete awe. The actor reshared a viral video on his Instagram Story featuring Lyonya Shilovsky, a Russian child prodigy who amazed audiences worldwide by leading a full orchestra at just three years of age. The clip, which continues to circulate on social media years after it was first recorded, showcases the young drummer's extraordinary rhythm, confidence and musical instinct.

Madhavan shared a video of Lyonya effortlessly playing the drums while simultaneously conducting an orchestra with remarkable precision. The performance quickly captivated social media users. Lyonya first gained global recognition after performing with a professional orchestra at the age of three, and his rendition of Jacques Offenbach's "Can-Can" later became an internet sensation. Now 10, the young musical prodigy continues to inspire millions, with Madhavan's post introducing his extraordinary talent to a new generation of viewers. — ETimes

ACTION TITANS READY FOR BATTLE

Spy missions, underworld sagas, sequels and thrillers dominate upcoming release slate

The year 2026 is shaping up to be a strong one for action cinema, with some of India's biggest stars leading high-profile releases across industries. From spy thrillers and gangster dramas to large-scale action entertainers, audiences have plenty to anticipate.

Shah Rukh Khan returns with King, one of the year's most anticipated films, building on his recent run of action hits. Alia Bhatt ventures into the genre with Alpha, part of an established spy universe that promises high-octane action and a fresh on-screen avatar.

Adivi Sesh reprises his role in G2, the sequel to Goodachari, which is expected to expand the espionage world introduced in the original film. Ali Fazal returns as Guddu Pandit in the film adaptation of Mirzapur, bringing the franchise's signature blend of action, crime and gritty storytelling to the big screen.

Meanwhile, Yash headlines Toxic, his first major release after the success of the KGF franchise. With its distinctive visual style and intriguing premise, the film has generated considerable buzz. Together, these releases are set to make 2026 an exciting year for action cinema. — ETimes